



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

March 2, 2020

The Honorable Angus King
United States Senate
133 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator King:

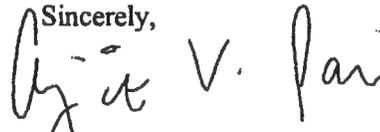
Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence.

That's why, at the FCC's January meeting, we adopted a Report and Order establishing final rules for the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. This modernized approach for connecting the hardest-to-serve areas of our country represents the biggest step yet the Commission has taken to close the digital divide. It will build on the success of the CAF Phase II auction and provide more than \$20 billion over the next decade to support up to gigabit service to millions of unserved Americans through a competitive reverse auction. We'll target support to areas that lack access to fixed voice and 25/3 Mbps broadband through a two-phase approach. Phase I will target support to wholly unserved census blocks—those areas where our existing data tell us there is no 25/3 Mbps service at all—in order to make sure that the areas most in need will get broadband service quickly. Then, Phase II will fill in the remaining coverage gaps by supporting networks that will serve partially unserved census blocks, along with areas not won in Phase I. Phase II will leverage the Commission's Digital Opportunity Data Collection, the new granular, precise broadband mapping initiative the agency adopted this past August. In short, we're proposing to connect more Americans to faster broadband networks than any other universal service program has done.

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Page 2—The Honorable Angus King

Thank you for your interest in the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund, and I look forward to continuing to collaborate with you to close the digital divide.

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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OFFICE OF
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March 2, 2020

The Honorable Ben Sasse
United States Senate
136 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

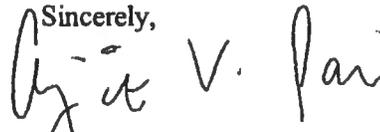
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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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OFFICE OF
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March 2, 2020

The Honorable Bill Cassidy
United States Senate
520 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cassidy:

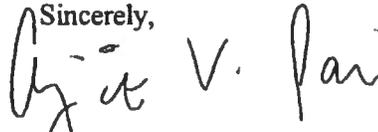
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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OFFICE OF
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March 2, 2020

The Honorable John Boozman
United States Senate
141 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Boozman:

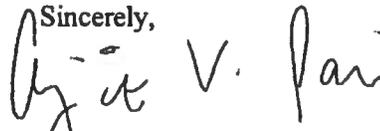
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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March 2, 2020

The Honorable Kevin Cramer
United States Senate
B240C Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cramer:

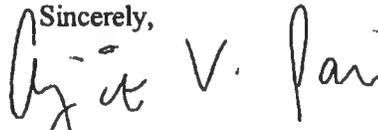
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The Honorable Roy Blunt
United States Senate
260 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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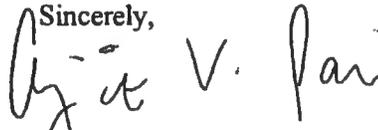
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United States Senate
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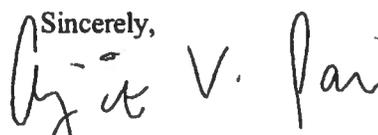
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